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I, Alfred H. Muratori certify that this paper was deposited with the United States Postal Service addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box: amendment, Washington D.C. 20231, first class, postage prepaid on 01 October 2002.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hunt et al.

Serial No. 09/921,437

Filed: August 3, 2001

For: **CHEMICAL VAPOR DEPOSITION AND POWDER FORMATION USING THERMAL SPRAY WITH NEAR SUPERCRITICAL FLUID SOLUTIONS**

Art Unit: 1763

Examiner: unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, kindly consider the following amendments and the accompanying remarks.

In the Claims:

Please delete Claims 1-12 in their entirety. Please add the following new claims 13-49 as follows:

13. A method for atomizing a formative fluid to form a selected material, comprising:

providing in a liquid state and at a first selected temperature and a first selected pressure, the formative fluid which is capable of forming the selected material;

directing the formative fluid in the liquid state to a fluid conduit having an input end and an output end, wherein the output end includes an outlet port being oriented to direct the formative fluid to a material formation region;

regulating the temperature of said formative fluid as it passes through the fluid conduit so as to maintain at least some of the formative fluid in the fluid conduit in the liquid state at a second selected temperature which is below the supercritical temperature (Tc) of the formative fluid, the second selected temperature being selected to promote or control atomization of the formative fluid when it exits the output end of the fluid conduit; and

directing the liquid formative fluid through the outlet port of the fluid conduit into the formation region so as to produce an atomized spray.